

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for acquiring scanned image data relating to an external body portion and/or a product applied to the external body portion, the process comprising:

placing a transfer member in contact with an external portion of an individual so as to obtain a transfer image on the transfer member; and

5 scanning the transfer image with an optical image scanner to obtain scanned image data for an image representative of at least one characteristic of the external body portion, and/or at least one product applied to the external body portion.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member includes adhesive material provided on a backing, the adhesive material of the transfer member being placed in contact with skin and the transfer member being removed from the skin to transfer cells from the skin of the individual to the transfer member.

3. The process of claim 2, further comprising placing the adhesive material of the transfer member in contact with adhesive material of a second transfer member and separating the transfer members to transfer a portion of the skin cells to the second transfer member.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is placed in contact with an external body portion including a cosmetic product applied thereto, and wherein the

image of the scanned image data is representative of at least one characteristic of the cosmetic product.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the external portion includes lips and wherein the cosmetic product is one of a lip care product and a lip makeup product.

6. The process of claim 4, wherein the external portion includes skin and wherein the cosmetic product is foundation makeup.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the transfer member is formed of fabric.

8. The process of claim 7, wherein the transfer member is an article of clothing.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is a sheet of material, and wherein the process includes placing the sheet of material in contact with lips of the individual and transferring a lip product from the lips to the sheet of material.

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the lip product is lipstick.

11. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is a moldable material, and wherein the process includes placing the moldable material in contact with the skin of the individual to produce, on the moldable material, the surface profile of the skin.

12. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is a window, the window being a portion of the image scanner defining a scanning region.

13. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is one of a hair comb and a hair brush, wherein the placing of the transfer member in contact with the external body portion includes passing said one of the hair comb and the hair brush through hair, and wherein the transfer image on the transfer member includes at least one of strands of hair and skin cells.

14. The process of claim 1, further comprising placing the external portion of the individual in the vicinity of a scanning region of the scanner, and scanning the external portion with the image scanner.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein the scanning of the transfer image of the transfer member and the scanning of the external portion occur one of simultaneously and one after another.

16. The process of claim 14, wherein the external portion of the individual is placed into contact with the scanning region of the scanner.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein the scanner is a flat bed scanner and wherein the external portion of the individual is moved into contact with the scanning region.

18. The process of claim 16, wherein the scanner is a hand-held scanner and wherein the scanner is moved into contact with the external portion of the individual.

19. The process of claim 14, further comprising placing liquid between the external body portion and the scanning region, the liquid altering the index of refraction to improve visualization of said at least one characteristic.

20. The process of claim 14, further comprising placing at least one of a dye and a pigment on the external portion to improve visualization of said at least one characteristic.

21. The process of claim 1, wherein the external portion includes at least one of the skin of the individual, at least one strand of hair of the individual, at least one fingernail of the individual, at least one toe nail of the individual, and at least one tooth of the individual.

22. The process of claim 21, wherein the external portion includes the skin of the individual, and wherein the external portion is located on one of the hand, foot, arm, leg, torso, and face of the individual.

23. The process of claim 22, wherein the external portion is located on the lips of the individual.

24. The process of claim 21, wherein the external portion includes said at least one strand of hair, and wherein said at least one strand of hair is one of a strand of hair from the scalp of the individual, an eyelash of the individual, and an eyebrow hair of the individual.

25. The process of claim 1, wherein the image scanner is associated with a first computer located at a first location, and wherein the process further comprises transferring the scanned image data from the first computer to a second computer located at a second location remote from the first location.

26. The process of claim 25, wherein the transferring includes transmitting the scanned image data via the Internet.

27. The process of claim 25, further comprising storing the scanned image data on a data storage medium, wherein the transferring includes shipping the data storage medium to the second location.

28. The process of claim 25, further comprising transferring questionnaire answers from the first location to the second location, at least some of the questionnaire answers being related to at least one of a condition of the external portion and the product applied to the external body portion.

29. The process of claim 25, further comprising sending to the second location at least one of billing information and payment information.

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30. A process of analyzing at least one characteristic of an external body portion of an individual and/or at least one product applied to the external body portion, the process comprising:

acquiring scanned image data according to the process of claim 1; and

displaying an image corresponding to the scanned image data; and

viewing the displayed image to analyze said at least one characteristic.

31. The process of claim 30, wherein the image scanner is associated with a first computer at a first location, wherein the process further comprises transferring the scanned image data from the first computer to a second computer at a second location remote from the first location, and wherein the image is displayed at the second location.

32. The process of claim 30, further comprising sending the scanned image data to a plurality of locations so that the at least one characteristic may be analyzed numerous times.

33. The process of claim 30, further comprising monitoring status of the external portion during treatment of the external portion.

34. The process of claim 33, further comprising providing a recommendation for a treatment of the external portion based on the monitored status.

35. The process of claim 33, further comprising providing the individual with information regarding the effectiveness of the treatment.

36. The process of claim 33, wherein the monitoring includes repeating at least the acquiring.

37. The process of claim 30, further comprising comparing the displayed image to at least one image formed from image data stored in an image database.

38. A process for recommending treatment for an external body portion, the process comprising:

analyzing at least one characteristic of an external body portion according to the process of claim 30;

determining a recommendation of at least one treatment for the external portion;  
and

providing the treatment recommendation so that the external portion of the individual may be treated according to the recommendation.

39. The process of claim 38, wherein the treatment recommendation is a recommendation regarding use of at least one of a cosmetic product and a dermatological product.

40. The process of claim 39, wherein said at least one of the cosmetic product and the dermatological product is one of a makeup product, a care product, a hair product, a skin product, and a sun exposure product.

41. The process of claim 39, wherein the treatment recommendation is a recommendation regarding application of said at least one of the cosmetic product and the dermatological product to the external portion.

42. The process of claim 38, further comprising providing product ordering information along with the treatment recommendation.

43. The process of claim 38, wherein the providing of the treatment recommendation includes providing the treatment recommendation to at least one of the individual and a treatment provider.

44. The process of claim 43, wherein the providing of the treatment recommendation includes transmitting said recommendation to said at least one of the individual and the treatment provider via the Internet.

45. The process of claim 38, wherein a computer at least partially performs the determining of the treatment recommendation, the computer being located at a location remote from that of the image scanner.

46. A process of evaluating a product applied to an external body portion, the process comprising:

analyzing at least one characteristic of a product applied to an external body portion according to the process of claim 30.



47. The process of claim 46, wherein the transfer member is placed in contact with an external body portion including a cosmetic product applied thereto, and wherein the scanned image data is representative of at least one characteristic of the cosmetic product.

48. The process of claim 1, further comprising collecting information relating to the transfer image of the transfer member to form a database for use in at least one of diagnoses, treatment recommendation determinations, product evaluations, and product formulations.

49. The process of claim 1, wherein the scanned image data includes data regarding color of said transfer image.

50. The process of claim 1, wherein the scanning includes emitting light from the scanner onto the transfer member.

51. The process of claim 1, wherein the scanner is configured in the form of a scanner for scanning documents.

52. The process of claim 1, wherein the process further comprises scanning, with the image scanner, a calibration member having one of a predetermined size and a predetermined color.

53. The process of claim 1, wherein the process further comprises obtaining scanned image data relating to multiple scanned images.

54. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer image on the transfer member indicates a condition of the external portion.

55. The process of claim 1, wherein the transfer member is configured to change color in response to a condition of the external portion.

56. The process of claim 1, further comprising treating at least one of the transfer member and the external body portion to enhance the transfer image on the transfer member.

57. The process of claim 1, wherein the process further comprises treating at least one of the transfer member and the external body portion, and removing the transfer member from the external body portion to transfer material to the transfer member, and wherein said treatment increases the amount of transferred material.

58. The process of claim 1, further comprising analyzing at least one of the external body portion and the transfer member with analysis equipment.

59. The process of claim 58, wherein the analysis equipment is chosen from one of a corneometer, a dermal torque meter, an image analyzer, a PH meter, and a device for measuring hydration of the skin.

60. The process of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the external portion, wherein the analyzing of the external portion is performed by a trained person.

61. The process of claim 1, further comprising providing a grade indicative of at least one of the condition of the external portion and performance of the product.

62. The process of claim 61, further comprising storing information relating to the grade in a database.